Five Win $10,000 Each In '70s FBI Spying Case

NEW YORK, Jan. 24 (AP) — Five people who claimed to have been targets of illegal FBI spying in the early 1970s during a hunt for Weather Underground militants have won damages of $10,000 each from the government.

U.S. Attorney John S. Martin Jr. said Friday that although the government paid the claimants, it doesn't admit that federal agents tapped their telephones, opened their mail or burglarized their homes and offices as the plaintiffs alleged.

But he added that the government "pledges that any future investigations of the plaintiffs will be in accordance with governing law."

Government attorneys also admitted that the five were not Weather Underground members, but said authorities believed the five knew where wanted members of the radical leftist organization were hiding.

The five plaintiffs, who had sued for $1 million each, included Johanna Lawrenson, who was living with former Yippie leader Abbie Hoffman when he surrendered last Sept. 4 after nearly seven years on the run from a cocaine peddling charge.

The other four plaintiffs, who sued the government separately in 1977, were William A. Price, Deborah Offner, Lewis Cole and Sara Blackburn.

"It marks government recognition that constitutional rights have a significant value," said Gordon J. Johnson, whose law firm represented some of the plaintiffs.

Quake Jolts Zagreb Area

BELGRADE, Jan. 24 (UPI) — An earthquake jolted the area of Zagreb in western Yugoslavia today and was felt by most of residents but caused no damage nor casualties, meteorologists said.